REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the current application. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent claims.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jean-Louis Lassorie. Applicant respectfully traverses this art grounds of rejection.

Lassorie discloses a process for testing the operation of an application-specific integrated circuit and an application-specific integrated circuit relating thereto. The Examiner largely relies on an embodiment of Lassorie described in columns 11 and 12 as anticipating claim 1. In column 11, lines 32-44, Lassorie refers to "characteristic data". Lassorie states that the characteristic data typically comprises the number and nature of the associated devices, the waveform of their control signals, the length of the data words exchanged, the access times, the number of locations of the memories, and the addresses of the first locations of the memories. The Examiner alleges in his Office Action that these elements of the characteristic data correspond to information stored in a response file used to simulate system response; the response file including at least one message, a message marker associated with this message, at least one response associated with this message and a response marker associated with each response as recited in independent claim 1.

Each element of the characteristic data in column 11, lines 32-44, fails to represent features as recited in independent claim 1. It is clear from column 12, lines 28-34, that the test program, which receives the characteristic data, uses elements of the characteristic data to calculate a response. Since "length of the data words" is one factor used to _calculate_ a response in column 11, line 40, then "length of the data words" cannot correspond to the "at least one response," as recited in claim 1, contrary to the Examiner's assertion. Further, the "end of response marker" as recited in claim 1 is not related to the "access time" as described in column 11, line 40, of Lassorie. Instead these are merely factors that are used in dynamically _calculating_ a result [Column 12, Lines 16-43].

Further, following the calculation, Lassorie teaches sending all results at the same time, and not sequentially outputting the results. Lassorie states "the procedure for automatic testing of the makeup of the integrated circuit comprises a step of reading the test results stored through the shift register 20" and "the elementary cells of the register 20 are controlled in such a way as to inject onto the instruction bus 8 an instruction for reading test results at their location in the internal data memory 18 and for presenting these results on the data bus 13" (column 12, lines 39-59).

Therefore, Lassorie uses elements of characteristic to _calculate results_ and does not compare a message to a previously stored message upon which a

response will be *sequentially output* if there is more than one response _in memory_ (Emphasis Added).

As such, Lassorie does not disclose or suggest that "the at least two responses are *sequentially output* in response to a sequential receipt of the message" as recited in claim 1.

Regarding independent claim 11, the Examiner states that a comparator adapted to compare messages received from a system to information stored in the response file to determine whether or not the received message matches a message stored in the response file is anticipated by Lassorie in column 10, line 6. However, Lassorie refers to a comparator that only compares a program counter 19 to a verification address and then activates a detection signal RDYS attached to test device 61 (column 10, line 6). Thus, there is no comparator for comparing a message received from a system to information stored in a response file to determine whether or not the received message matches a message stored in the response file as recited in claim 11.

Further, the Examiner's arguments regarding claims 11 and 21 in terms of the at least one message and elements associated with the at least one message are deficient in ways similar to independent claim 1 as discussed above.

Claims 2-10, 12-20 and 21-30, dependent upon independent claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively, are likewise allowable over Lassorie at least for the

reasons given above with respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove this art grounds of rejection.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.
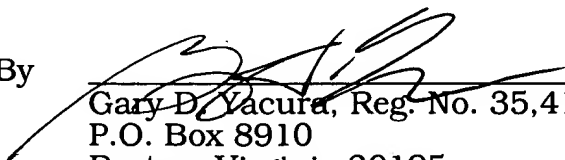
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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